

**COMMANDING OFFICER
MARINE ATTACK SQUADRON 542
SEXUAL ASSAULT PREVENTION AND RESPONSE POLICY**



Sexual assault is a crime that is not unique to any gender, race, or age. Sexual assault is defined as intentional sexual contact, characterized by the use of force, physical threat of force or abuse of authority; or when the victim does not or cannot consent. The reference is a newly revised Marine Corps Order containing guidance for identify, reporting, and addressing the issue of sexual assault.

Sexual assault will not be tolerated. Failure to report or ignoring sexual assault incidents will have damaging consequences for both victims and their organizations. Where cause exist, appropriate legal and/or administrative action will be taken against violators.

Victims will be treated with sensitivity, decency and respect, and will receive appropriate medical, emotional, psychological, and social services. Care will be given to ensure the identity of a victim is released only to those who have a need to know (i.e. PMO, NCIS). Victim safety is paramount at all times. Victims who choose to make a Restricted Report in accordance with the reference will have the choice honored to the fullest extent. Victims who have the courage to report must feel confident their personal safety will be protected and they will not be re-victimized by the organization. Marines and Sailors who are sexually assaulted are physically, mentally and emotionally traumatized. They deserve to be treated with sensitivity and care.

It is imperative Marines take care of each other and not allow a fellow Marine to be victimized. It is our responsibility as Marines to be active bystanders and take a stand against sexual assault.

Leaders at all levels will take immediate action to become familiar with the contents of the reference. Commanders will ensure all members of their command are briefed on the contents of the reference and receive annual refresher training. Marine Corps Community Services, the Sexual Assault Response Coordinator, and/or Uniform Victim advocates will be utilized to assist the command in fulfilling SAPR training responsibilities, as well as providing assistance to victims.

Sexual assault is a complete and total contradiction to the core values we all embrace. Eliminating sexual assault will take a dedicated community effort. I challenge each leader and individual to accept responsibility for achieving this goal. Our Marine family deserves nothing that than our complete dedication to this cause.

Semper Fidelis,

John D. Ferguson

Lieutenant Colonel, U. S. Marine Corps
Commanding Officer, Marine Attack Squadron 542